

REMARKS

Status of the claims:

With the above amendment, claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Claims 1 and 3-12 are pending and ready for further action on the merits. No new matter has been added by way of the above amendments. Claim 1 has been amended simply to make it clearer. Claim 3 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph

Claims 1 and 3-12 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Examiner asserts that essential steps are missing from the method of claim 1. The Examiner has recommended amending claim 1 as currently amended to overcome the rejection. Applicants have amended the claim accordingly. Thus, Applicants believe that the rejection has been obviated.

With the above remarks and amendments, Applicants believe that the claims, as they now stand, define patentable subject matter such that passage of the instant invention to allowance is warranted. A Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.


If any questions remain regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, T. Benjamin Schroeder (Reg.

No. 50,990), in the Washington metropolitan area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Marc S. Weiner, #32,181

^{BS}
MSW/TBS/mua

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000